

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Inmate once on FBI's Most Wanted List dies in prison

JACKSON – A state inmate once on the FBI's Most Wanted List has died in prison while serving life for two counts of capital murder and other crimes.

James W. Dyess, 62, who was housed at South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, died Monday at Promise Hospital in Vicksburg.

Dyess once was wanted for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. He had escaped the Clarke County jail on April 25, 1986, after being convicted of burglary and grand larceny. While on the run, he and an accomplice killed two people. He was placed on the FBI's list on Sept. 29, 1986, and arrested on March 16, 1988, in Los Angeles during a routine traffic stop under another name.

Dyess, MDOC #35448, subsequently was returned to Mississippi and later convicted of capital murder. He was sentenced to two life sentences on Sept. 29, 1989 in Harrison County.

The cause and the manner of death are pending an autopsy.